

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS

CONFIDENTIAL

Project Proposal Memorandum

Date: 5 Nov. 53

DOCUMENT NO. 3

NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐

☐ DECLASSIFIED

CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C

NEXT REVIEW DATE:

AUTH: HR 70-2

DATE 9-17-77 REVIEWER: 372044

TO : Project Review Committee
Geographic Area, ORR

FROM: Chief, D/GG

1. Subject of Proposed Project: The Burma-China Boundary
2. Statement of Project: To study this boundary region from the standpoint of possible Chinese Communist physical and political penetration.

Outline: See attached.

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3. Need for Project: Request from [REDACTED] 2 November 1953, Case [REDACTED]
4. Responsible Branch: Territorial Studies Responsible Analyst: [REDACTED]
5. Estimated Man-Hours Required to Complete Project:

Producing Division: 300

6. Graphics or Maps: A map will be requested from D/GG, details to be discussed later.
7. Cooperation Desired from Other CIA Offices and Other Agencies: Possible review of draft report by DRF, State.
8. Probable Completion Date: Open; deadline not set by [REDACTED] but project will have No.1 priority for [REDACTED]
9. Probable Form of Final Publication: CIA/8 6 R 11/27/54
53
10. Recommendations Regarding Distribution of Finished Report:

Preliminary ditto copies to requester.

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Approved by Project Review Committee:

Date NOV 10 1953

Chairman

Chief, D/GG

Approved by AD/RR:

Date 20 Nov 53

AD/RR

REC'D IN D/GG

NOV 2 1953

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Security Information

PN-68.1190

Approved For Release 2000/04/17 : CIA-RDP79-01009A0007000100

Outline: THE BURMA-CHINA BORDER

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This is a tentative outline based upon a preliminary survey of source materials for a proposed study of the Burma-China border. Frontier areas will be examined from the geographic point of view, considering interrelations of topography, border peoples, cultural and economic orientations as to their effect upon Chinese Communist physical and political penetration of the border.

I. Physical Characteristics of the Border Area.

Treatment: The various physical elements -- terrain, hydrography, climate, and vegetation -- will be described and evaluated as their effect upon trans-border movements. Various sectors of the boundary will be analyzed as to the difficulty or ease presented by the physical elements to Chinese penetration, including the value of these sectors as avenues for possible future Communist moves directed against Thailand and India.

II. Peoples of the Border Area.

Treatment: This section will include brief descriptions of various ethnic groups including population, general characteristics, economy, and contacts with other groups with emphasis upon the cultural orientation of the border tribes, particularly the strength of cultural ties if Chinese Communist political pressure is increased. Ethnic groups probably to be discussed include: Kachin, Shan, Li-su, La-hu, Tibetans, Yunnan Tai, and lesser groups.

III. Economic Orientation of the Border Area.

Treatment: The economic orientation of the border areas and their degree of dependence upon outside areas will be examined. The amount of trade, trading routes, transportation facilities, types of trade, and resources of the border area will be included.

IV. Political Factors and Forces.

Treatment: The current political situation will be summarized including a brief historical introduction. Emphasis will be placed upon the degree of control exercised by the Burmese and Chinese in the frontier areas. The organization by the Chinese Communists of so-called autonomous governments in minority-inhabited areas will be scrutinized as to the success or lack of success in winning allegiance of border tribes and to the possible application to minority groups of Burma. Dissident activity against the Burmese Government including the Chinese Nationalist problem will be examined as to their bearing upon future actions by Red China and Burma.

V. Boundary Claims of Burma and China.

Treatment: Sections of the boundary disputed and area involved, history of the disputes, and validity of the respective claims will be studied. Sections of the disputed boundary most likely to be utilized as an excuse for overt action by the Chinese Communists will be examined. The present status of the boundary including regulations concerning border crossings, security forces, boundary markers, and frontier fortifications will be noted.

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